

[DATE]

The Honorable Donald Trump
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear President Trump, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We, the XXXX undersigned organizations, stand in support of vital federal programs that provide housing assistance and community development resources to aid low income Americans. These programs strengthen our country and economy by creating millions of jobs and offering a safety net to our most vulnerable households. With more families struggling to make ends meet, and our nation's affordable housing infrastructure deteriorating, federal investments are ever more critical to sustain our communities and ensure families thrive. However, the current uncertainty around long-term funding is undermining the short-term operations and long-term viability of our nation's affordable housing and community development programs. We represent national, state, and local business, housing and community development, faith-based, disability, and civil rights organizations, as well as officials in municipal, tribal and state governments.

Now that the government has been reopened, we urge you to work together to ensure affordable housing and community development programs receive robust federal funding by passing full-year spending bills for the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Agriculture (USDA). This funding should be enacted before another shutdown could occur to prevent additional disruptions to critical housing services and lasting damage to the faith that residents, owner and investors have in these programs.

It was unconscionable for Congress and the Administration to risk the homes of tens of thousands of our country's lowest-income and most vulnerable renters because of the government shutdown. Low-income people served by affordable housing and community development programs have already been negatively impacted by the government shutdown. People from across the country have shared their stories of being threatened with increased rents or eviction, and other individuals have found that landlords will not rent to voucher holders, out of concern that HUD would not pay them what is

needed to cover their costs. Local programs that provide homeless services ran out of necessary funding, causing them to be unable to help some of our nation's most vulnerable families.

Had the shutdown continued, the lowest-income people – older adults, people with disabilities, and families with children – would have suffered the most.

It is long past time for Congress and the Administration to pass full-year spending bills that ensure affordable housing and community development programs have the funding they need to continue to serve the American people. **Once Congress and the Administration pass full-year spending bills for fiscal year 2019, we urge you to turn your attention to lifting the fiscal year 2020 caps on federal spending and ensure that affordable housing and community development programs receive the highest allocation of federal funds possible.**

Sincerely,

[List in formation}